

Good Evening,

My name is Rachel Sanacora and I am a UConn junior from Guilford, CT studying Global Health. Before I begin, I just wanted to express my extreme thanks to the committee for your continued support towards UConn over the years.

As I stood in the middle of a make-shift medical clinic in the Dominican Republic surrounded by the people who have become my second family, I couldn't help but take a step back and think about everything that led me to that moment that has now directed my entire path in life. This was an experience I had during one of my trips to the Dominican Republic with UConn Bridge to Guanin, a medical service group through the UConn Premedical Society. UConn Bridge to Guanin is just one of the many incredible experiences I have been able to have throughout my three short years at UConn thus far. From service work to presenting research at top institutions, I can honestly say the opportunities I have had as a student at UConn have shaped who I am today and helped me find my true passions in life. Luckily, I was fortunate enough to receive a scholarship through the STEM Scholars program that has allowed me to truly take advantage of all of these opportunities while still letting me focus on my studies and challenging myself academically rather than spending every free minute I have struggling to pay for my education. If funding to this University were cut, I and the almost 32,000 other students at UConn would not be able to reach our full potential and make the greatest impact possible during our lives. Please consider the future of not only our Connecticut community but of our world as a whole and do continue to fund the education of the next generation.